

up to 15% water to form a mixture;

compacting the mixture into the agglomerate; and

heating the agglomerate at a temperature of from about 1000°C to about 1550°C for a period of 6 to 20 minutes.

Please amend claims 7 - 10 as follows:

7. (Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the agglomerate is initially heated in an oxidizing atmosphere, followed by further heating in an inert or reducing atmosphere.

8. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, further comprising adding steel alloy materials to the agglomerate; and introducing said agglomerate into a steelmaking furnace.

9. (Amended) A process according to claim 8, wherein said agglomerate is formed into a briquette.

10. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein from 0.5 to 15 percent of the iron bearing materials are particles up to 6 mm in size.

Please amend claims 12 - 14 as follows:

12. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein said cellulose fiber

comprises 0.5 to 25% of the mixture, where the preferred mixture has 0.5 to 2.0%.

13. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein said agglomerate forms at least 40% metallized iron.

14. (Amended) A process for making strong, green agglomerates by dry combining iron bearing materials, a reductant, and a cellulose fiber with up to 15% water, wherein the agglomerates are formed by high pressure compaction.

Please amend claims 18 - 19 as follows:

18. (Amended) A process according to claim 14, wherein from 0.5 to 15 percent of the iron bearing feed material consists of particles that are up to 6 mm in size.

19. (Amended) A process according to claim 14, wherein said cellulose fiber comprises 0.5 to 25% of the mixture, where the preferred mixture has 0.5 to 2.0%.

Please add new claim 21 as follows:

21. The composition of an agglomerate, where said agglomerate after being formed through high pressure compaction is dry and is immediately suitable for metallization in a furnace, wherein said agglomerate is a mixture comprised of:

- a.) approximately 70 to 85 parts by weight of finely divided iron bearing materials;
- b.) approximately 15 to 25 parts by weight of finely divided carbon based reductant;